FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

3 OCTOBER 1986

Iran

Kidnapping of Syrian Envoy — A Syrian diplomat was abducted by gunmen while on his way home from the Syrian Embassy in Tehran, IRNA reported, adding that an Iranian official accused the CIA of involvement in the incident. However, a Syrian spokesman in Damascus subsequently announced that the kidnapping was over and that the diplomat was no longer being held by the kidnappers, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

Gasoline — The petroleum minister announced that gasoline will be rationed as of 3 October in order to reduce domestic consumption by around 25 percent, according to Tehran radio. Vehicles will be allowed 40-60 liters per month, depending on their size. The minister described the program as temporary, stressing that the authorities will increase the ration when gasoline stocks increase and will dispense with rationing altogether if the situation improves sufficiently.

Missing Athletes — Four Iranian weightlifters missing in Seoul are believed to be seeking political asylum at the Iraqi consulate in the ROK capital, KYODO reported.

Lebanon

The government's decision to take over the legal ports was implemented 2 October, Voice of Lebanon radio reported, noting that port officials began to enforce customs regulations and prevent violations. The director general of customs said his department's work is proceeding satisfactorily at the ports of Beirut, Juniyah, Sidon, Tyre, and Tripoli. The Lebanese Forces closed down harbors under their control, the radio said, and the Amal Movement and the Progressive Socialist Party announced their intention to follow suit.

As for the situation at the Al-Rashidiyah refugee camp near Tyre, where Palestinian and Amal gunmen have clashed in recent days, the Voice of Lebanon said that Amal and the Palestine National Salvation Front accused each other of provoking the fighting. A PFLP official cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon accused Amal of kidnapping some 300 Palestinians in the Tyre area.

In Beirut, the Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) issued a statement warning that ASALA will "strike in France in the next few days" if the latter fails to free George 'Abdallah, Anis Naqqash, and Armenian militant Varujan Garabidian, AFP reported.

Egypt

Around 81 percent of the electorate voted in the Consultative Council elections and all the valid votes were cast for the NDP, the only party to submit candidates, the interior minister announced in a statement reported by MENA. A Cairo radio commentary said the people participated "enthusiastically" despite the opposition's "black campaign" against the election, asserting that the voters "rose above those who asked them to adopt a negative attitude and go back on the march toward democracy."

PLO

In a Baghdad Voice of PLO radio interview, PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir denounced the West Bank mayoral appointments and said the PLO was "surprised" at the favorable response of Jordan's minister for occupied territory. Al-Wazir also criticized Syria for wanting to "subjugate" Palestinian national aspirations and for obstructing plans for a PNC meeting.

Iraq

An Oil Ministry under secretary and six other men were hanged after having been convicted of illegal dealings with foreign companies, INA reported, adding that two others were sentenced to life imprisonment and fined.

Saudi Mediation Between Syria and Iraq

A Saudi envoy will visit Damascus and Baghdad shortly in order to resume the Kingdom's efforts to reduce Syrian-Iraqi differences, according to Arab diplomatic sources in Riyadh cited by the Jordanian weekly *Akhbar Al-Usbu'*.

PDRY

YSP Assistant Secretary General Salim Salih Muhammad charged that the "poisonous" reports on military clashes between the two Yemens were part of an "imperialist and Zionist design against nationalist regimes and their democratic nationalist forces," Aden Radio reported.

DRA-Pakistan

The DRA protested to Pakistan over a 19 September incident in which "Pakistani forces and militia together with American advisers fired 700 surface-to-surface missiles" at an Afghan village, killing 62 people and wounding 44, Kabul radio reported.

Mauritania

The Cabinet ratified a decree banning the import, purchase, and consumption of alcohol everywhere in the country, Nouakchott radio reported. Citizens will be liable to penalities stipulated in the legal code if they violate this regulation, the radio noted, though foreign diplomats and aid workers will be exempt from the ban.

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Further Reportage on Attempt on Gandhi's Life

Leaders Condemn Attempted Killing

BK030329 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 3 Oct 86

[Text] Governors, chief ministers, and several political leaders have strongly condemned the attempt on the life of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, at Rajghat in Delhi yesterday. The president of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Mr L.K. Advani; the Janata Party president, Mr Chandra Shekhar; the Congress-S president, Mr Sharad Rawar; and the president of the All India Shiromani Akali Dal-Master Tara Singh group, Jathedar Kuldip Singh; expressed concern and demanded a thorough probe into the incident.

The West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, and Assam chief minister, Mr Prafulla Kumar Mohanta, condemned the incident and appealed to the people to remain calm. Among others who condemned the incident are the Punjab chief minsiter, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, and the Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr N.T. Rama Rao. Condemning the incident, the Politburo of the CPI-M has called upon the people to maintain unity and calm. The Congress-I vice president, Mr Arjun Singh, has said that this moment calls for greater faith, dedication, and commitment from each one of us to protect and preserve the unity and integrity of the coutnry. The Lok Sabha speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, has urged the center to take stern action agaisnt the culprit.

Several world leaders have condemned the incident. The Soviet Union says the assassination attempt was made with the aim of splitting the country's unity and territorial integrity. The U.S. State Department spokesman, Mr Charles Redman, denounced the attack and said his country is relieved that the prime minister was unhurt. The French prime minsiter, Mr Chirac, has conveyed his sympathy and solidarity with Mr Gandhi. In his message, the Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, has expressed his happiness over Mr Gandhi's escape from the attempt on his life. The Pakistan president, General Ziaul Haq, has expressed his deep concern at the incident and said he was relieved that the attempt was abortive. The Ghanaian leader, Mr Jerry Rawlings, has expressed deep abhorrence at the dastardly attempt on Mr Gandhi's life. [passage omitted]

The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, arrives in Vijaywade [from Maharashtra] this morning on a day's visit to Andhra Pradesh. He will leave immediately by helicopter for Bhimavaram from where he will begin his tour of flood-affected areas in east and west Godavari and Khammam Districts.

Would-Be Assassin, Security Probed

BK021605 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 2 Oct 86

[Excerpts] A person was apprehended at Rajghat in Delhi this morning after he fired shots at the prime minister. [passage omitted] A case under 307 of the IPC [Indian Penal Code] and under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act has been registered.

According to an official spokesman, the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] its investigating into the identity and background of the person who fired the shots. A countrymade weapon was also recovered from him. He first gave his name as Manmohan Desai, but changed his name several times.

The government has taken the decision to place under suspension some officials of the Delhi police directly responsible for the security arrangements. The situation in Delhi and elsewhere is normal. Instructions have been issued to all the states to maintain a vigil, allay apprehension, and dispel rumors.

Following the incident, the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, held a review meeting with the lieutenant governor of Delhi and officials of the Home Ministry and the security arrangements were thoroughly reviewed and decisions taken to tighten them. The meeting discussed the security lapses that enabled the miscreant to enter the Rajghat complex.

Several political leaders have condemned the shooting incident at Rajghat. They demanded a thorough enquiry and called for further strengthening of security arrangements for the prime minister. In a message, the vice president, Mr Venkataraman, expressed relief that the prime minsiter was not harmed and conveyed to Mr Rajiv Gandhi the good wishes of the people.

The prime minister left for Maharashtra and the president for Madhya Pradesh as scheduled. When newsmen met Mr Rajiv Gandhi at Delhi airport, he said everything is all right and there is no absolutely no problem at all.

Would-Be Assassin in Police Custody

BK030847 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 3 Oct 86

[Text] The man arrested for an attempt on the life of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, yesterday has been remanded to police custody for 21 days. He was produced before the chief metropolitan magistrate by the Central Bureau of Investigation this morning.

AFP: Failed Assassin May Be Sikh

BK030901 Hong Kong AFP in English 0858 GMT 3 Oct 86

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Oct 3 (AFP) — Senior detectives believe the gunman who tried to kill Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi here Thursday could be a Sikh from Punjab, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said Friday. [passage omitted]

CBI Additional Director C.M. Radhakrishnan Nair said the man had given several different names, but he could be Karamjit Singh, a Sikh from Sangrur town in Punjab, about 225 kilometres (140 miles) north of New Delhi. "This is being verified and we hope to know by the end of the day," he said.

Any links with Sikh militants fighting for a separate Sikh state had yet to be established, he told *Agence France-Presse*. [passage omitted]

The *Press Trust of India* meanwhile reported that according to its CBI sources, the shooting suspect was indeed Karamjit Singh. [passage omitted]

The CBI sources told PTI that he had confessed to having spent two weeks in bushes awaiting Mr Gandhi's arrival at a prayer ceremony marking the 117th birthday of Mohandas "Mahatma" Gandhi at Rajghat in Delhi.

Meanwhile, police sources said four senior police officials have been suspended in what has been widely condemned as a massive security lapse. The four are the head of VIP security in the capital, Gautam Kaul, who is also a cousin of the prime minister; Assistant Commissioner of Police Shankar Das; and two police inspectors, Modi Ram and Shiv Kumar. The sources said a complete list of all officers who were on duty at Rajghat was being prepared so that those responsible for the lapses could be brought to account.

Gandhi Welcomed at Start of Maharashtra Visit

BK021245 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 2 Oct 86

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] On his arrival at Nagpur, the prime minister was given a tumultuous welcome. Addressing a rally at Sevagram in the afternoon, Mr Rajiv Gandhi called upon the people of all religions, languages, and castes to maintain unity among themselves. He said unless Gandhian thought is adopted for economic policy the poor cannot prosper. Soon after his arrival at Sevagram, he drove to the Sevagram Ashram and visited the Bapu Kutir [Mahatama Gandhi's cottage]. Rajiv Gandhi addressed a small gathering there. Later, he inaugurated a photo exhibition depicting the life of Mahatama Gandhi.

President Addresses Freedom Fighters in Jabalpur

BK030349 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 3 Oct 86

[Text] The president, Giani Zail Singh, has appealed to the freedom fighters to work for nation building with the same zeal as during the struggle for independence. Addressing a gathering of freedom fighters at Jabalpur yesterday, he regretted that many of them have not been given the recognition they reserved. The president said welfare schemes are being misused. He was happy that the prime minister has directed speedy disposal of cases of pension of the freedom fighters.

Punjab Police Chief Escapes Assassination Attempt

BK030421 Hong Kong AFP in English 0332 GMT 3 Oct 86

[Text] Amritsar, India, Oct 3 (AFP) — Punjab Police Chief Julio Ribeiro escaped unharmed Friday from an assassination attempt near here which left two paramilitary police dead, police here said.

An unknown number of attackers opened fire on the director-general of the Punjab police from a truck in Jullundur, about 50 kilometres (30 miles) from this Sikh holy city.

Mr Ribeiro became chief of police of this predominantly Sikh province in January with a pledge to match militants "bullet for bullet" in a bid to end their campaign for a separate Sikh state. Incidents related to Sikh violence have claimed some 500 lives in Punjab this year.

AFP Reports Further

BK030514 Hong Kong AFP in English 0508 GMT 3 Oct 86

[Text] Chandigarh, India, Oct 3 (AFP) — [Passage omitted] Five Sikhs dressed in police uniforms drove into the Punjab police headquarters at Jullundur at 6:35 a.m. (0105 GMT) and opened fire on Mr Ribeiro and his wife as they took a morning stroll on the grounds, the spokesman said.

Mr Ribeiro, reported to be on the hit list of Sikh militants, and his wife threw themselves on the ground when the shooting began, but Mrs Ribeiro was hit in the leg, the spokesman said. One member of the paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force died and two others were seriously wounded, the spokesman added.

The five attackers fled in their jeep, which was found abandoned at a nearby railway track, he added. [passage omitted]

Known in India for his ruthless efficiency, the police chief had predicted in a recent interview that he would probably be shot dead in the line of his work.

Trade Talks With Angola Held in New Delhi 1 Oct

BK030422 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 1 Oct 86

[Text] A 3-day ministerial-level trade talk between India and Angola began in New Delhi today. Initiating the talks, the commerce minister, Mr Shiv Shankar, who is leading the Indian delegation, offered India's assistance to Angola in the fields of agriculture, energy, and petrochemicals and in improving rail and transport network. He called for efforts to intensify bilateral, economic, commercial, and technical cooperation as a concrete expression of the commitment of the two countries to south-south cooperation and promotion of collective self-reliance of developing countries. In the field of trade, Mr Shiv Shankar called for evolving bilateral framework to ensure balanced and stable growth on a mutually beneficial basis.

The Angolan minister of external commerce, Mr Ismael Gaspar Martins, who is leading his country's delegation, said they are looking forward to the strengthening of economic and commercial ties with India as the joint partner in development. He said there are tremendous possibilities in Angola for trade with India. After concluding the talks on Friday [3 October], the Angola delegation is scheduled to visit Goa and Bombay. Mr Martins also called on the minister of state for industry, Mr Arunchalam. They discussed possibilities of joint ventures and other bilateral matters. Mr Arunchalam said India could provide training facilities in the field of small industries, especially for training Angolans in diamond polishing. India could also give managerial and entrepreneurial training facilities.

Paper on New Delhi's 'Indifference' to PRC 'Violation'
BK030649 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English
25 Sep 86 p 8

[Editorial: "Options on the Border"]

[Text] Mr Romesh Bhandari's sudden visit to Calcutta last week-end and his comment on discussions with the Chinese about their seizure of a slice of Arunachal Pradesh did not altogether remove misgivings about New Delhi's seeming indifference to this violation of Indian sovereignty.

It will still be asked why a matter of such importance should be left to a party functionary instead of being handled by the External Affairs Ministry; nor was Mr Bhandari's attempt to play down the significance of the intrusion, by saying that the Chinese-built helipad is not very deep in Indian territory, particularly reassuring. In fact, the Government's attitude to the entire sorry business has been strangely ambivalent, being marked by a series of contradictory statements which probably also reflected the appalling state of official intelligence. Nothing having been said officially since August 4 when Mr K. R. Narayanan [minister of state for external affairs] admitted the construction of the helipad, it can be assumed that the intruders remain entrenched in the Sumdorong Chu valley.

Arunachal Pradesh's local Press suggests that the Chinese have built several huts and are preparing to establish an all-weather camp; it is also reported that a road is being constructed to link this outpost with military installations in Tibet. It is thus clear that Beijing has paid no heed to India's protests and refuses to regard Sumdorong Chu even as disputed territory. Obviously China has little intention of vacating this newly acquired possession; fortification of the camp seems to be intended to defy India to throw the intruders out physically. But New Delhi cannot consider such a course at this stage, given the grave ramifications of military conflict and also because the Chinese enjoy significant logistic advantages in the region.

But it is difficult to see how the Government can sit idle in the face of such grave provocation. Unfortunately there is no evidence, apart from Mr Bhandari's casual remarks, that New Delhi has taken up the matter seriously with the Chinese even at the diplomatic level. Little seems to have happened since the two countries "stated" their respective positions at the seventh round of talks in Beijing in July. Arguably, India may not be in a position to pressure China, but there is an uncomfortable feeling that New Delhi's silence is not explicable only in terms of the lack of leverage. It seems to be thoroughly perplexed about Chinese motives which does not say much for the Government's diplomatic resources. Conventional wisdom suggests that China has revived claims on 90,000 sq km of Indian territory in the eastern sector primarily to bolster its demand for formal concessions in the Aksai Chin region which it already controls. Even if the military option is closed there is no reason why New Delhi should not consider the diplomatic alternative. For instance, the level of contacts can be raised with the Foreign Ministers of both countries meeting to sort matters out.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi is obviously not in a position to make the kind of gesture Mr Gorbachev recently did in an effort to resolve the protracted Sino-Soviet border dispute. But the Soviet move may have significant implications for India which it would be unwise to ignore. In any case, New Delhi would be well advised to reiterate its concern over Sumdorong Chu, even if only through formal diplomatic channels: The failure to do so will not only look like acquiescence in the Chinese stand that the valley has always been part of their territory but will also confirm domestic fears that were not really removed by the impromptu comments of the head of the AICC(I)'s [All India Congress Committee-I] external affairs cell.

Ziaul Haq, Junejo Cable Gandhi Over Shooting Incident

BK021531 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 2 Oct 86

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo have conveyed their profound grief and regret to Rajiv Gandhi at the shooting incident which took place during a prayer meeting in New Delhi which was attended by the Indian prime minister.

In his message to the Indian prime minister, the president said he was greatly concerned to learn about the shooting. He said he was greatly relieved to know that everybody was safe in this incident. The president expressed his best wishes for the long life and happiness of Rajiv Gandhi and for the progress and prosperity of India.

The prime minister, in his message to Rajiv Gandhi, said he was greatly concerned to see news agency reports on the shooting incident which took place at the prayer meeting. The prime minister expressed deep satisfaction in his own name and on behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan that nobody was hurt in the incident. He prayed for the health and long life of Rajiv Gandhi so that he can continue to serve the people of India.

Yaqub Khan Meets Iran's Velayati on UN Sidelines

BK031036 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1005 GMT 3 Oct 86

[Text] At the United Nations the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has had a meeting with his Iranian counterpart, Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati. They agreed that the recent meeting between the presidents of their respective countries had (?strengthened) their ties.

Mr Velayati said that a recent visit to Tehran by the Pakistan finance minister, Mohammad Yasin Khan Wattoo, as the head of the delegation to a meeting of the joint commission has also contributed to the strengthening of bilateral cooperation. They also discussed some of the items on the agenda of the General Assembly, including Afghanistan.

Earlier, addressing the General Assembly, the Iranian foreign minister said that the occupation of Afghanistan by the Soviet troops had led to rising tensions in the region endangering its peace and security. He said because of the direct impact of the situation in Afghanistan on our national security and the practical problems caused by the continuation of the influx of Afghan refugees Iran was following the situation carefully and with great concern.

NEPAL

Japanese Delegation Meets King, Officials

BK300014 Hong Kong AFP in English 0004 GMT 30 Sep 86

[Text] Katmandu, Sept 29 (AFP) — A Japanese parliamentary delegation led by former prime minister Takeo Fukuda had an audience with Nepal's King Birendra Monday, an official source said here.

The 10-member delegation, which arrived here Saturday on a five-day goodwill mission, also had talks with Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha, who explained the problems of Nepal's rapid population growth, which is affecting the country's economic growth, the source said.

Mr Fukuda also met with the vice chairman of the Nepal Population Commission, who briefed him on Nepal's population problems, the government's plans, and and programmes to deal with it and the migration problem from India.

Nepal's population is currently 17.1 million, but it is expected to reach 24 million by the turn of the century and to double in the next 27 years if the current 2.6 per cent annual population growth rate is not checked.

SRI LANKA

Union Leader Assures Government of Cooperation

BK011147 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Oct 86

[Text] Although the terrorists are trying to influence certain estate workers to join their destructive movement, the Ceylon Workers Congress [CWC] will always remain democratic and continue to be a nonviolent organization as they have done in the past 50 years. This assurance was given to President J.R. Jayewardene by the CWC delegation headed by Mr S. Thondaman, minister of rural industrial development, when they met President J.R. Jayewardene and his senior officials to discuss certain problems prevailing in the estate areas.

At this discussion, the CWC leadership requested the government to expedite the investigations against estate youths who have been taken into custody under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. They pointed out that their aim was to reform these misguided youths and prevent estate areas from falling prey to the treachery of terrorism.

The CWC delegation also stated that some politicians and parties who are opposed to the government are carrying out false proganda against the CWC and the government. They assured that the CWC will continue to extend their fullest cooperation to the government despite these attempts.

With regard to the men in custody, President Jayewardene pointed out that if there is any evidence against the youths from the estate in custody, they have to be dealt with under the same laws that apply to everybody in the country. He added that every case will be studied carefully by the attorney general and on his recommendations the innocents will be released whatever their nationality.

Inspector General of Police Mr Cyril Herath told the delegation that his officials have been instructed to act cautiously while arresting and detaining people anywhere in the island. He also said that if they did not exercise caution with regard to these arrests, the number of arrests and detainees would have been much more than the number in custody now. He further said once bonafides are established, the innocents will be released from custody as soon as possible.

The CWC delegation comprised Minister S. Thondaman, M.S. Sellasamy, justice of peace, Perisunderam, and P. Devaraj.

Terrorist Landmine Kills 4, Destroys Jeep

BK031003 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0956 GMT 3 Oct 86

[Text] Colombo, Oct 3 *(Lanka Puwath)* — Four persons were killed when the jeep in which they were travelling was blown up by a terrorist landmine this morning at Pankulam, Trincomalee in eastern Sri Lanka.

The Media Centre in Colombo told *Lanka Puwath* that the dead were the assistant government agent Morawewa, Trincomalee; U.B. Wijesundara, the postmaster, Morawewa; M.A. Sirisena, driver of the jeep; G.M. Mihil Silva; and Sauyadana volunteer health service male nurse, Renuka Gunasekera. They died on the spot. The jeep was destroyed by the landmine placed by terrorists at Pankulam.

The four were travelling in the jeep from Morawewa to Anuradhapura when the vehicle was blown up by the landmine.

Syria's Envoy in Tehran Reportedly 'Kidnapped'

LD030918 Tehran IRNA in English 0916 GMT 3 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 3, IRNA — The minister counsellor of the Syrian Embassy here who is also serving as the charge d'affaires, Iyad Salim al-Mahmud was kidnapped by unidentified gunmen Thursday night.

Tehran radio in a broadcast earlier Friday referred to the diplomat as Syrian ambassador, but in an IRNA contact with the Syrian Embassy here it was learned that Al-Mahmud is the minister counsellor and presently serving in the post of charge d'affaires in the absence of the ambassador.

The former Syrian ambarsador's mission here ended recently and he has not been replaced yet.

Armed men in a B.M.W. car and an ambulance stopped the Syrian diplomat's car at 20:00 hours local time Thursday (16:30 GMT) as he was returning home from the embassy. Eyewitnesses said the kidnappers fired six shots and transferred Al-Mahmud into the ambulance taking him to an unknown destination.

Nothing is yet known on the fate of the Syrian envoy and the authorities are carefully following up the incident.

Tehran radio quoted a responsible official here as blaming CIA agents and global arrogance for this terrorist act.

This measure is aimed at damaging the Islamic Republic of Iran's solidified relations with progressive Arab countries particularly that Iran is preparing to put a victorious end to the Iraqi imposed war and remove the Ba'thist Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn from power, the radio quoted the official as saying.

For more details on the incident, IRNA contacted the Syrian Embassy here but the embassy officials declined to respond to any questions.

Iranian Foreign Ministry officials too were not available due to the holiday Friday.

Syrian Embassy Confirms Report

NC030908 Paris AFP in English 0905 GMT 3 Oct 86

[Excerpt] Tehran, Oct 3 (AFP) — Armed men kidnapped the Syrian charge d'affaires in Tehran on Thursday night, the Syrian Embassy here said Friday, as a top Iranian official was quoted as saying he suspected that the CIA was involved in the abduction. [passage omitted]

The Syrian Embassy confirmed a Tehran radio report, but refused further comment.

"We are in contact with the Iranian authorities, we cannot say any more," a Syrian diplomat said. [passage omitted]

Syrian Spokesman Says Case 'Over'

JN031213 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Oct 86

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Responding to a question by our radio on the soundness of reports about the abduction of the Syrian ambassador in Tehran, Syrian Presidential Palace spokesman Jubran Kuriyah said there is no Syrian ambassador in Tehran at present.

Regarding the subject of Syrian diplomat Iyad Mahmud, who was the target of an abduction attempt, the spokesman said: This subject is over and the Syrian diplomat is no longer in the hands of the kidnappers. He declined to elaborate.

Majlis Speaker on War in Friday Prayer Sermon

LD031251 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Oct 86

[Text] Friday prayer ceremonies with the participation of million-strong multitudes of committed and faithful worshippers were held throughout the country in Friday prayer meeting places today. The citizens of Tehran who gathered at Tehran University also observed this Muslim ritual under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani and cried out: War, war until victory!

In the prayer sermons the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly first referred to the reopening of the country's schools and universities and said: Our country's pupils and students have begun the academic year at a time when in Iraq, owing to the emergency situation arising from the war, all the educational institutions have been closed down. The figure of 100,000 students, which is equivalent to the figure in the last academic year under the previous regime, indicates our country's strong position and that of the Islamic Republic system. [sentence as heard]

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani then enumerated the importance of the population and housing census in society. He said: In order to prepare a detailed plan for the country's progress we need accurate information about society's people and their living conditions. We call upon all citizens to cooperate sincerely with the census officials.

Continuing his remarks, the Majlis speaker turned to the issue of rationing gasoline in the country and said: In the present circumstances we cannot spend foreign exchange to import gasoline into the country so that some people can use it up for unnecessary purposes. If we are to say our last word in connection with the imposed war we must be prepared to make sacrifices in every respect, so that all the storage facilities can be brim full of fuel to prevent industry, transport, and homes needing fuel from being harmed by a lack of refineries and an absence of imported fuel. We hope that before the enemy or our enemies are able to do anything we will achieve notable successes.

The Friday prayers imam of Tehran stressed: When the storage facilities are full and conditions have returned to normal the gasoline rationing program will be abolished.

The imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council devoted the major thrust of his sermon to the imposed war. He referred to the War Week and stressed: The overall information we have gathered in the course of that week and about the hezbollahi ummah's enthusiasm and eagerness to go to the front makes it quite clear that our people's morale for the war is higher even than last year, and that the people's readiness to continue and endure the war is at an excellent level. This readiness is a source of hope for the country's officials but a source of disappointment for our enemies. This sense of hopelessness has also affected Saddam's supporters. In its analysis of the imposed war the French television last night pointed out that in the coming weeks the world was likely to see a conspicuous victory for Iran and the downfall of the Iraqi Ba'th "arty.

The imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council then turned to the United Nations General Assembly session and said: You who have gathered there and who say end the war, do you think that if we abandon the war in the present circumstances reparations will be paid to us? Will the Iraqi refugees return to their homes? If we end the war while Saddam remains in Iraq will he admit to his mistake or can there be reconcilation between us and Iraq?

Hojjat ol-Esiam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: There is, therefore, only one option, namely uprooting the evil of Saddam and the Iraqi Ba'th Party from Iraq, away from that country's people and out of the region. We shall live with the utmost friendship and cooperation with our country's neighbors, including the Iraqis themselves, if there is a government with which we have empathy in terms of culture, our way of thinking, and our ideas. We would also do that if there was at least a government that was not bent on waging war against us, if the Iraqi people were able to return to Iraq, and if they would pay us reparations.

In conclusion, the Friday imam of Tehran once agin stressed: In these circumstances the nation should continue the epic linked to the formation of 500 battalions. The combatants who are prepared to go to the front again are invited to perpetuate the movement of the marchers of Karbala on the same scale. Those who are competent as commanders, and also those who have war experience are invited to join up as honoray pasdar [Islamic Revolution Guards Corps members] to enable our combatants behind the lines so that we can eradicate this germ of corruption from the region.

Velayati Speaks at UN; Says War 'Approaching End'

LD021424 Tehran IRNA in English 1028 GMT 2 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 2, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said at the UN General Assembly meet Wednesday that the Iraqi imposed war was approaching its end, and expressed the hope that this would bring about ever-lasting peace in the region.

"Our region would not bear another destructive war," he told the 41st meeting of the UN General Assembly in New York, adding that all the countries in the region should manage to employ their possibilities to establish a lasting peace after the removal of the present regime in Iraq.

The Iranian foreign minister also described the Iraqi imposed war, now in its seventh year, as a serious threat against international peace. "It is but an all-out aggression of a regime against the independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and in this particular case, against the revolution of a country," he said.

In his remarks Velayati outlined the Islamic Republic of Iran's stands on the Iraqi imposed war, the issue of Palestine and Lebanon, the racist South African regime, Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and Geneva peace talks, U.S. interventions in the Persian Gulf and Latin America, the weak and strong points of the United Nations in resolving international disputes, and other important issues of the world.

Foreign Minister Velayati reiterated Iran's position on the war, saying that from the very beginning the Islamic Republic has been demanding the condemnation and punishment of the aggressor (Iraq) and the establishment of a just peace between Iran and Iraq and in the region.

On the Baghdad regime's inhuman crimes during the six years of the war, he referred to physical torture of Iranian POW's in Iraqi camps, military attacks on civilian areas resulting in martyrdom of thousands of people, attacking passenger planes which he described as very unprecedented in the world, and deployment of lethal chemical weapons in violation of all international conventions.

The last Iraqi attack on a passenger plane occurred on Feb. 20, 1986 over the Iranian city of Ahvaz, as a result of which some 40 civilians were martyred, he said.

Velayati also said that despite the Security Council's explicit condemnation of Iraq in March this year, the Baghdad regime had repeated use of internationally banned chemical weapons five times, in March, April, and May, in the war fronts and even civilian areas. He urged the Security Council to issue another resolution in condemnation of continued use of these weapons by the Baghdad regime and ask other countries to discontinue the export of chemical and technological products which could be used by Iraq to this end.

The foreign minister also regretted that the international community lacked an independent and powerful judicial authority to investigate violations of international conventions. For example, he said, The Hague should be able to investigate the breach of the 1925 Geneva agreement by the Baghdad regime independently and regardless of the present situation.

Concerning Afghanistan, Velayati said that the continuous Soviet occupation of this Muslim country has escalated tension and jeopardized the security of the whole region.

Describing the Geneva talks on Afghanistan as a "pretext" for prolonging Soviet occupation and for diversion of world public opinion, Velayati demanded "an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Soviets from Afghanistan". Repatriation of

Afghan refugees, non-interference of foreign powers in this country, and allowing the Afghan people to determine their own destiny are the only solutions to the issue, Velayati added.

On the issue of Palestine, the foreign minister dismissed any reconciliation in this regard and said that Palestine will be liberated only through an armed struggle. Velayati noted that the holding of any peace conference with the Zionist aggressor will be similar to reconciliation. "A just and lasting peace in the region depends on driving the Zionist occupation forces out of Palestine and other Arab lands, the repatriation of all Palestinians to their mother-land, and establishment of an independent Palestinian state, he said.

Velayati took up the Lebanon issue, stressing the importance of its security and territorial integrity, and called on the UN to protect Lebanese civilians in line with the 1979 Geneva Convention, against the inhumane measures of Zionist forces.

Commenting on the South African apartheid regime, he termed the unanimity of world countries in favour of sanctions against the Pretoria regime as a good opportunity for the UN to implement its resolutions to pressure the racist Pretoria Government. Castigating the racist government for continuing its aggression against Namibia, and its numerous crimes against African freedom fighters, the foreign minister called for further world attention to the issue.

Velayati also condemned the Reagan administration for its expansionist policy on Africa as well as its direct intervention in Nicaragua violating its territorial integrity.

On conflicts in Asia, the Iranian minister said that presence of foreign forces in Cambodia was a gross violation of the security and stability of that country and also the whole Southeast Asia.

Both the Republic of Korea and the People's Democratic Republic of Korea should endeavor to sort out differences and become united to strengthen security and stability of the region.

Foreign Minister Velayati said that the presence of the superpowers in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf only helps increasing tension in the region. "The Persian Gulf, as the most vital waterway for stability of world economy should remain a non-military zone free of nuclear and toxic weapons," he said.

On the presence of the superpowers and their military bases in the Mediterranean Sea, Velayati said that contrary to the dreams of regional countries for a peaceful Mediterranean, the arrogant powers have extended their aggressions from the sea to the shores of littoral states.

Referring to U.S.-sponsored state terrorism, Velayati said that Washington is terrorizing deprived nations on the pretext of an anti-terrorism campaign.

The Third World countries are the main victims of U.S. backed acts of individual, group, or state terrorism, Velayati said. He added that because international mass media ignore the Third World, such cases of terrorism in these countries are not reflected to the world.

On the arms race between the superpowers, Velayati said that the production speed of nuclear weapons is greater than that of the disarmament talks.

The Iranian foreign minister also criticized the UN for its failure in solving various issues in the world and compared it to a private enterprise company in which the main share-holders wield the greater power. If the UN cannot succeed in carrying out its duties of safeguarding the independence and territorial integrity of independent countries as well as international security, it better support those countries struggling for their independence, Velayati said. [sentence as received]

Meets Counterparts in New York

LD021416 Tehran IRNA in English 1332 GMT 2 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 2, IRNA — Iranian foreign minister said in New York Wednesday that Iran will not participate in any meeting of the UN Security Council as long as the council refuses to revise its stand on the Iraqi-imposed war or condemn the aggressor party.

The Security Council has not yet adopted a just stand vis-a-vis the Iraqi-imposed war, the foreign minister said.

Velayati made the remarks in a meeting with his Austrian counterpart Leopold Gratz here. The Austrian foreign minister extended an invitation to Velayati to pay an official visit to Vienna next year which was accepted.

In a separate meeting with Kuwaiti foreign minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah on the same day, Velayati criticized certain Persian Gulf states for their unfriendly stands on the imposed war. "Such attitudes will adversely affect Iran's relations with these countries", Velayati said. "The Persian Gulf states should not link their fate with that of Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn."

Foreign Minister Velayati reiterated that the Ba'thist Iraqi regime will definitely be toppled in a near future.

Among other topics discussed by the two were issues relevant to OPEC and the latest developments in the organization.

The foreign minister also met with his Bulgarian and Sri Lankan counterparts as well as deputy foreign minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Wednesday.

In his meeting with Sri Lankan foreign minister A.C.S. Hameed, Velayati discussed the upcoming visit of Sri Lankan economic minister to Tehran. He expressed hope that such visits would serve to promote the mutual volume of trade.

Velayati and the DPRK's deputy foreign minister discussed the bilateral relations as well as the scheduled visit of North Korean foreign minister to Iran. Velayati expressed hope that the visit will prepare the ground for extensive cooperation between Tehran and Pyongyang.

Expansion of the Tehran-Sofia relations was among topics that Velayati discussed with his Bulgarian counterpart Petur Mladenov.

Musavi Addresses Training Center on Revolution, Unity

LD021259 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Oct 86

[Text] The graduation ceremonies at the sixth officers training course center and the first gendarmerie medical NCO's training school were held in the presence of Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi at the gendarmerie's 22d Bahman garrison this morning.

According to a Central News Unit report, to begin with Mr Musavi, inspected the units attending the ceremonies. Then the commander of the gendarmerie officers training center gave a report on the center's training activities.

After awarding certificates to the officers and NCO's 1st class of the various sections and the course's model lecturers, the prime minister expounded on the achievements of the Islamic Revolution and, referring to moral values dominant in our society and to the people's spirit of self-sacrifice, he said: In order to fulfill its task well the gendarmerie should be aware of the achievements of the revolution and of its greatness.

Emphasizing that the forces of law and order should safeguard the achievements of the Islamic Revolution the prime minister referred to the prime duty of the gendarmerie as being that of safeguarding the country's security. He said: In the world today the security of the reactionary or subservient countries is safeguarded by the superpowers and those countries' military and law and order forces are in effect tools of the superpowers safeguarding the interests of world arrogance. However, in the Islamic Republic the gendarmerie is safeguarding the security of a country which is not subservient to east or west. It relies on the people, on the ideological school of Islam, and on self-sacrifice and the great morale of its people. Safeguarding the security of such a country is a cause for pride and glory.

The prime minister then enumerated the plots hatched by world arrogance against Iran's Islamic Revolution and said: Despite all these plots the system of the Islamic Republic is daily becoming stronger and more consolidated and is capable today of defending the achievements of the revolution and the interests of the meek. This is conditional on the unity of all strata of the nation, particularly the unity of the Armed Forces and the people; and the gendarmerie, too, should strive to safeguard this unity and, by serving the deprived, meek people, should help to consolidate the brotherhood of the Armed Forces and people.

In conclusion, expounding on the services rendered by the gendarmerie, the prime minister paid tribute to the sacrifices and acts of selflessness of the combatant personnel of the gendarmerie in their fight against the agents of world arrogance, in guarding the country's borders, and during the imposed war. At the conclusion of the ceremonies, after the singing of songs and a march-past, technical operations of fixed-bayonet fighting were demonstrated by the course's graduate officers.

KEYHAN Views U.S. War Strategy, 'Devious' Policies

PM021051 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 22 Sep 86 pp 18-19

[Editorial: "An Analysis of U.S. Strategy in Iraq's War Against Iran"]

[Excerpts] More than 6 years of our heroic people's defense against and resistance to the very heavy aggressions of Iraq's organized Army, backed by logistical and arms support from the superpowers, has left its deep and vital mark on the region's and the world's contemporary history.

It is still too early for public opinion to draw a clear picture of this deep and very fundamental impact on the nations' history of politics and struggle. But it will not be long before we see the deep effects of this glorious resistance. Without a doubt the downtrodden masses, both in Islamic countries and in other Third World nations, will be affected by our struggle — in accordance with their own political circumstances.

The most tangible effect of this 6-year struggle can be found in the morale of the people themselves and also in the fact that the revolution desperately needs the state of struggle to continue. [passage omitted]

Some political analysts admit that the organization and mobilization of the Iranian warriors and their capabilities in the fields of information, military tactics, combat know-how, and especially their spiritual powers and their sacrificing nature, have increased dramatically since the start of the war. [passage omitted]

There have been many discussions, articles, and reports on the hostile position of the U.S. Government toward the Islamic Revolution. The documents published from the Nest of Spies [former U.S. Embassy in Tehran] are themselves the best and most constructive proof of this hostility, and world public opinion is more or less aware of this.

U.S. strategy in the Iraq's war against Iran cannot be separated from these published documents and cannot be analyzed separately. The U.S. strategy outwardly appears today calm, logical, and neutral, and aimed at keeping others away from direct intervention in the war. But in reality the United States has used all its political and military muscle, diplomatic relations, economic pressures, intelligence activities, arms and technical support, and mental and propaganda ploys in support of a war which it hoped would lead to the fall of the popular and Islamic regime in Iran.

The Islamic Revolution in Iran, as far as U.S. officials are concerned, has more than anything else delivered devastating blows to U.S. authority in the region, which was eternal and unquestioned. It has endangered the interests of the United States and the West at an international level.

Therefore, U.S. officials regard as intolerable any stability for any regime based on this revolution, and they regard it as against the interests of the so-called Free World and their own freedom of action in the world. The United States has been called the real enemy and the Great Satan by the people of Iran and by many

other Islamic and revolutionary forces. This is because of America's aggressive and devious policies. Undoubtedly, this causes perpetual hatred and spite.

So, logically speaking, we can regard any success or victory of the people and the revolution as a defeat for U.S. policies. It has also become clear to world public opinion that the resistance and the struggle of the Iranian people cause concern and disappointment for the Americans and the Westerners over the future of their political shortcomings and programs. [sentence as received] U.S. strategy in such a war has in all its aspects been supported by the White House, and therefore, it can only be analyzed with that fact in mind.

In order to get at the roots of this strategy we have to study the fundamental opposition of U.S. policies with regard to the Islamic Revolution.

The reality is that civilized countries with a rich culture make the best neighbors and the best "natural allies" for any country or regime. Ensuring security and stability necessary for a culture and a revolution is gained through relations with such neighbors. [passage omitted]

The Islamic Revolution in Iran, from the time that it came to power to replace the puppet dictatorship of the shah with an independent regime, desperately needed to attract such "natural allies" and showed itself to be willing to be friends with its neighbors. [passage omitted]

Our society could not find a natural ally along its long northern borders and its Marxist neighbor. The small societies at the southern edge of the Persian Gulf were too remote and, being on the other side of the Persian Gulf, were not reliable allies.

Afghanistan and Pakistan in the east and Turkey in the west, despite cultural similarities and a tradition of ties with our people and culture, are considered to be closed societies, which meant they were not "first choice."

In this circumstance, because of a reasonably long common border, stretching some 1,353 km, because of easy border crossings for frontier villagers, the existence of holy towns such as Najaf and Karbala' which are very important to Iranians, and because of the religious makeup of the Iraqi people — more than 95-percent Muslim, some two-thirds Shi'ite — and because of historical and cultural ties, Iraq occupied a special place as a "natural ally" for the Iranian Islamic Revolution.

The military regime ruling Iraq and its widespread party organization, because of the racist nature of the Ba'th Party, prevented its people from being naturally attracted to the Islamic Revolution, immediately after the fall of the shah. They did this by injecting theories such as: The revolution has a Persian nature, the revolution has a Shi'ite nature, the revolution has an anti-Arab nature, and the revolution has a hostile and expansionist nature.

These flames were fanned by actions such as bringing up border disputes and sporadic frontier skirmishes. Provoking public opinion inside Iraq against the Iranian revolution presented a bigger obstacle to the message of the revolution reaching other Arab societies because Iraq was a natural bridge for this message.

The Iraqi regime saw its mission to be one of preventing the message of the Islamic Revolution from reaching other Shi'ite societies and neighboring Arab countries. From several years back the Iraqi regime saw itself as the leader of the Arab fold following the end of Egypt's glory during the days of Al-Nasir. So Iraq called this mission a tribal, nationalist, and an Arab one.

Meanwhile, Iran was without a doubt the strongest ally of the Arab and the Islamic world because of its stance with regard to superpower aggression and Israel. [passage omitted]

The Arab reactionary regimes not only did not use this golden opportunity that the Islamic Revolution had generously provided for them, they went the same way as the United States and the West. The conservative regimes knowingly or unknowingly went against the brave and anti-Zionist nature of the Arab peoples and followed the U.S. policy of wanting to create stability and peace to safeguard the existence of Israel. They did not become friendly with the Iranian Islamic Revolution for fear of upsetting the controlable status quo and in order not to deviate from the path of Camp David. Had they not done so, it would have caused the eventual awakening of the Muslim people and the downfall of moderate regimes and parties who believe in compromise.

What worried the United States and the West was the joint analyses of old political hands such as Kissinger and Rockefeller who believed that if the Iranian Islamic Revolution remained in power and gained stability, it would demonstrate the "dominoe theory." In other words, with the downfall of the shah of Iran and with the fall of the Saddam regime in Iraq, other Western puppet regimes of the region would also fall one after the other.

This is why from the start the Western analysts did not hide their fear of the resurgence of a deep Islamic movement, or "Pan-Islamism," or "Pan-Shi'ism," or "Islamic fundamentalism." As far as they were concerned, what could have happened was something that they themselves admit to having learned from the use of oil as a political weapon in 1973. This time it could have happened on a more widespread scale and in a deeper way, by politicizing the price of oil, production, the raw materials market, and especially the entire fate of oil.

For these developed industrial states, the alternative that could rid them of this fear was not a cold war of propaganda, nor a widespread all-out war. It was a full-scale and crushing border war, in a short and limited period, which would cause the downfall and destruction of the revolution and the fall of the Islamic regime. This must have had pleasant prospects for the United States and the West.

This is why when, at the beginning of the war, Iraq sent some of its forces, jet fighters, and helicopters to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, and Oman so that it could attack Iran's southern ports including Bandar-e 'Abbas, it was faced with opposition from its allies. The American *Newsweek* magazine wrote 13 October 1980: Such an action would certainly cause a rapid expansion of the war in the Persian Gulf.

Iraq, under pressure from the United States and other friendly nations, was forced to pull its forces out of those countries.

U.S. strategy in Iraq's war against Iran has three main roles:

1. the element of provocation of pressure;
2. the extent of influence and intervention; and
3. the role of threats and control. [passage omitted]

Iraq's war against Iran could have prevented for a considerable time a strategic Islamic unity in the region. The conditions created caused the mobilization of the Iraqi people against an imaginary enemy. The existence of Arab tribal sensitivities caused the isolation of the Iranian Islamic Revolution and could have caused the destruction of the Tehran government.

This is why the Iraqi regime, before its attack in September 1980, asked Shapur Bakhtiar, the shah's former prime minister, to go to Baghdad so that he could be dispatched to Tehran to gain control if the need arose. Bakhtiar went to Baghdad accompanied by several of the shah's generals and spent several months there.

It will not take much longer before we find out who was at the closed-door meetings, and who made the main decisions for the start of Iraq's attack against Iran. But what is clear to us and the world now is the satisfaction of the United States and the Western countries with the timely and swift Iraqi action. [passage omitted]

Another bitter truth which unveils the nature of the U.S. strategy is the tight arms race between the United States and other arms-producing nations which laid the groundwork for aggressive and destructive actions in the region.

The Iraqi regime, because of its heavy political and military dependence on the Soviet Union and the signing of huge arms deals, became from 1975 to 1979 the USSR's most important weapons' purchaser. [passage omitted]

But the Baghdad regime steered toward the West during the first years of the Iranian revolution, especially after the start of the war, and there was a flow of Western arms and advisers into Iraq.

The rate of U.S. and Western arms sales to reactionary Arab regimes in the region, especially Iraq's supporters, increased at a mind-boggling rate. [passage omitted]

France became one of the important suppliers of arms to the Iraqi Armed Forces. This country, despite international negative feedback, finally, after a few months delay, handed over to Iraq its super Etendard jet fighters and their Exocet missiles. They claimed that the Americans knew about the delivery of the hardware by the French Navy to the Iraqi Armed Forces, and thus cleared up any uncertainties.

Even West Germany, which became the main Western trading partner for Iran after the revolution, used the same excuse and sold armored personnel carriers to Iraq and trained their pilots and military experts.

The United Kingdom, which was considered to be the traditional enemy of the Iraqi people, was invited to this "buffet," despite the memories of the present generation of Iraqis who recall the liberation struggles of the clergy and religious leaders against British colonial control.

Assistance from the United States and Britain to the region's reactionary regimes such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait — in arms' shipments, loans and credits, military advisers, even mercenary military personnel — was effected in the framework of so-called national defense. But in practical terms these were put to the service of the war as a system of weapons' delivery, training, and intelligence-gathering actions, similar to what the American AWACS stationed in Saudi Arabia were doing in providing military information for the Iraqi Army.

The second role of U.S. strategy in the Iran-Iraq war was to "intervene and influence" in order to gain permanent and secure bases in the region. Creating a military defense cover, like a chain running through the Arab nations for the Persian Gulf, could have acted as an invisible base to safeguard the political and economic and even military interests of the United States.

The aim of creating the GCC in February 1981 was from the start to safeguard and coordinate the security issues of the region. [passage omitted]

Of course, it also has to be said that the opinion of Muslims with regard to the United States is very sensitive because of U.S. support for Israel's existence, crimes, and acts of aggression. This is one of the biggest obstacles to an invitation for, or the official presence of, U.S. troops in any of these countries.

But the Americans laid the groundwork for their appearance in the region by instilling in the people of the area — before the revolution — the fear of the threat of a Soviet presence in the Persian Gulf, and, after that, the fear of an Iranian decision to topple their regimes. [passage omitted]

The Americans did not waste any chance to gain points and to blackmail the Iranian regime. But the removal of the liberals and the small groups [guerrillas] from the Iranian political arena made them lose all hope. Wartime conditions in Iran caused the people to mobilize, and defense against the Iraqi attack took on an ideological stance. The defense of the country and regaining all the lost territory became a defense of the revolution and all of Islam.

With the Fat ol-Mobin and Jerusalem operations, followed by the liberation of Khorramshahr, which indicated the certain defeat of the Iraqi Army inside Iranian territory, the Americans sought to play a more active role in Iraq. They increased their policy of "infiltration and influence" in order to direct the war. [passage omitted]

The honeymoon of these new relations started when Reagan, in a propganda move, removed Iraq from the list of those countries which support international terrorism. They also stepped up their efforts to prevent the sale of arms to Iran by any country that might have done so.

Then he took steps to increase Iraq's oil-exporting capabilities. He asked the U.S. commerce bank and American construction firms to secure a half-billion dollar loan for Iraq so that it could build a pipeline to the Jordanian port of Aqaba, and to provide steel pipes worth 100 million dollars.

In order to lessen the economic pressures on Iraq, Reagan ordered a credit of $1-2 billion for Iraq for it to purchase foodstuffs.

And when Iraq started attacking Iranian shipping, Reagan said in an interview on the developments in the Persian Gulf: The enemy's commerce and trade is not a bad target to hit. [passage omitted]

This undeniable encouragement caused Iraq to become bolder in its other actions, such as using chemical weapons and poisonous gas, bombing cities, threatening civilian aircraft, and attacking economic and cultural centers in Iran.

One must admit that the U.S. strategy of attracting internal interests and gaining a strong foothold in Iraq, plus ever increasing intervention in the war, has been largely successful. It has also taken care of Western fears of an uncertain future for Iraq, which would have laid waste the huge investments made there. At one time Kissinger said: In the final analysis, it is in the interest of the United States that no one wins this war. [passage omitted]

But the current swing of the war after 6 years is quite against the predictions and beliefs of U.S. officials and quite against the new interests of the United States. This new swing in the war has caused the United States to make some changes in its strategy. With the external operations of the forces of revolution and the evidence of their strength and their unexpected military capabilities, the U.S. strategists are employing a third alternative in trying to control and minimize the war.

The United States regards any military or diplomatic move by Iran in connection with the continuation or intensification of the war as being against its long-term interests in the region. [passage omitted]

After the amazing operations which liberated Al-Faw, the "peace" theory became more prominent in the Americans' strategy. The United States insisted on an end to the war, not in the sense of an Iraqi defeat or the punishment of the aggressor, not even in the sense of an end to hostilities, but in the sense of an "all-embracing peace."

An all-out peace would not only wave the Iraqi regime and its supporters, it would guarantee the repayment of all the loans and credits given to Iraq and would safeguard U.S. international prestige and interests through one of its most critical political and military dealings outside its borders. On the other hand, an all-out peace would create immense internal problems for Iran. It would create a feeling of deep defeat in its revolutionary and national ideals and, in the extreme, would cause a moderate and pro-Western government to come to power.

Could the new U.S. doctrine and its widespread efforts prevent the realization of the already expressed will of the Islamic Revolution? [passage omitted]

Battalions Continue To Depart for War Fronts

10th Muharram Brigade Departs

LD021027 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 2 Oct 86

[Text] The 7th Karbala' convoy, including 10 combat-engineering battalions and several technical teams, named as the 10th Muharram Brigade, have left the cities and towns of Gorgan, Gonbad, 'Aliabad, Azadshahr, Minudasht, Kalaleh, Kord Kuy, Bandar-e Gaz, Aq Qal'eh, Bandar-e Torkeman, Gomish Tappeh, (Glikesh) and Ramian.

After marching in the main streets of these towns while chanting the slogans of "War, war, until victory" and "O combatants, not much longer before we reach Karbala'," the combatants left for the battlefronts of the war against the aggressive Saddamists. They were seen off enthusiatically by the ever-present-on-the-scene people of the region.

Mazandaran Province Convoy Leaves

LD021323 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Oct 86

[Text] Twenty-nine combat battalions left Mazandaran Province today for the country's war zones. Central News Unit correspondent in Sari reports:

The seventh Karbala convoy of Mazandaran Province, with an estimated strength of 29 combat battalions, named as the Epic-Makers of 'Ashura, left Amol today for the country's border fronts. On the basis of this report, Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi and a number of local officials were present at the send-off ceremonies. The interior minister praised the Muslim people of Mazandaran for their extensive presence on the battlefronts of the war of justice against injustice.

Communique No 2,612 Issued on Combat Operations

LD021643 Tehran IRNA in English 1658 GMT 2 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 2, IRNA — An undetermined number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and at least six enemy trucks, 10 gun emplacements, one supply bridge, two observation posts, and some tanks destroyed throughout the fronts Wednesday, said a military communique released Thursday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,612 said that Iranian forces opened heavy artillery and mortar fire on Iraqi positions and supply routes in the southern fronts Wednesday inflicting substantial casualties and damage upon enemy troops. An Iraqi patrol group, attempting to penetrate Iranian positions in the Yabis area of the southern fronts Wednesday, was routed by the Iranian artillery fire.

Two trucks and 10 gun emplacements of Iraqi forces were destroyed and their crews killed during fire exchanges in Ilam and Bakhtaran border fronts the same day.

The communique further said that heavy casualties were inficted on Iraqi troops when they lost one supply bridge, one truck, and two observation posts in the northwestern fronts by Iranian artillery fire.

In Sumar, western fronts, the communique said, fire exchanges continued between the two sides as a result of which some Iraqi tanks were destroyed and enemy fire silenced.

The communique added that the Iranian forces, maintaining the upper hand in the southern fronts, destroyed three enemy tanks and set parts of Iraqi fortifications ablaze.

The Iranian anti-aircraft fire repulsed Iraqi helicopters from the airspace of Sharhani, Zobeydah, 'Eyn Khvosh, and Yabis theaters of the southern fronts.

Iranian defenders heavily shelled an Iraqi supply column in the Maymak theatre of the western fronts, destroying some vehicles as well as halting enemy movements there.

Also, parts of Iraqi positions in Hoseyniyah and Nahr Anbar areas in the southern fronts were set ablaze and Iraqi engineering operations halted.

The Joint Staff communique said that Iraqi warplanes violating the airspace of Mehran and Qasr-e Shirin Wednesday were forced to flee by Iranian surface-to-air fire.